

UPK Roundtable - March 2024



Joint Initiatives
FOR YOUTH + FAMILIES

JI/UPK Team

Shay Almonte, Foundations Program Director
salmonte@jointinitiatives.org, 719-377-8179

Noreen Landis-Tyson, Consultant
nglt@mac.com, 719-338-7223

Heather Mayheu, Family Resource Navigator
hmayheu@jointinitiatives.org, 719-684-4326

Karla Rivera Ramirez, Family Resource Navigator
kriveraramirez@jointinitiatives.org, 719-960-7336

Andrew Drescher, Foundations Universal Pre-K Assistant
adrescher@jointinitiatives.org, 719-630-0927

Ryan Barry, Strategic Initiatives Director
rbarry@jointinitiatives.org, 719-684-4018



Today's Agenda

- **Welcome + Introductions**
- **CDEC Slides**
- **Review of the JI UPK page**
- **Bonus Opportunities**
- **Clarification of Provider Agreement (Private providers)**
- **Placement of children with IEPs and 3-year-olds (School Districts)**
- **Questions**

Universal Preschool Colorado



COLORADO

Department of Early Childhood

Topics

- Universal Preschool Colorado Celebrations
- 2024 Enrollment Timeline and Pathways
- Pre-Registration
- DAA Rounds
- Students with IEPs
- Income Verification
- General Education Three Year Olds
- Quality Standards



COLORADO
Department of Early Childhood

Universal Preschool Colorado Celebrations



COLORADO
Department of Early Childhood



Universal Preschool Colorado Celebrations

- 2025 providers have registered to be Universal Preschool providers for 2024-25 -- up from the 1,820 who participated last year.
- Nearly 27,000 four-year-olds received 15 hours of funding per week
- 52.1% of children were low-income
- 56% of children were children of color
- Nearly 50% of our Universal Preschool providers were rated Level 3-5 by Colorado

Shines



Universal Preschool: Family Satisfaction

| 4 Year olds Enrolled through January 8th payment | | | | |
|--|----------|----------|--------------|-----------------------|
| 10 hours | 15 hours | 30 hours | Total Awards | Percent of Population |
| 9,115 | 26,558 | 3,492 | 39,165 | 62% |

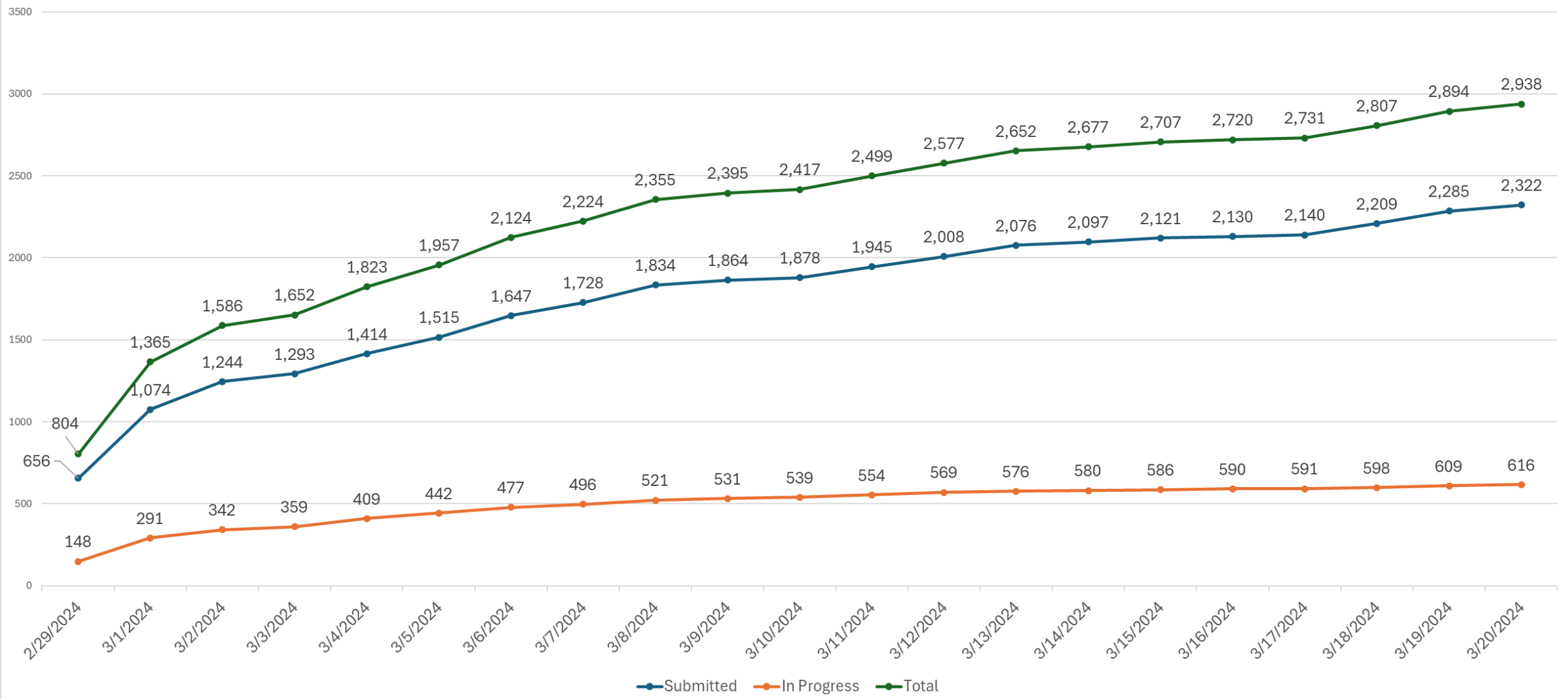
| Provider Type | 4 Year Olds Served by Provider Type | Providers by Provider Type |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| School District Site | 21,432 (55%) | 704 (39%) |
| Community Provider | 16,969 (43%) | 877 (48%) |
| Family Child Care Home | 764 (2%) | 229 (13%) |
| Total | 39,165 | 1,820 |



EPC UPK Data Update

- As of 3/20/2024, there are 2,938 applications for 2024-2025 in El Paso County. This is 31% of our four-year-old population's families that have either submitted or started their applications in 21 days.
 - 2,322 have been submitted
 - 616 are in progress
- As of 3/20/2024, a total of 1,245 children have been placed with providers in El Paso County. Providers will need to verify that children placed with them meet priority eligibility.
- We know that many families have filled out the application for 2023-2024 thinking it was for 2024-2025, JI staff have assisted dozens of these families already in filling out new applications.

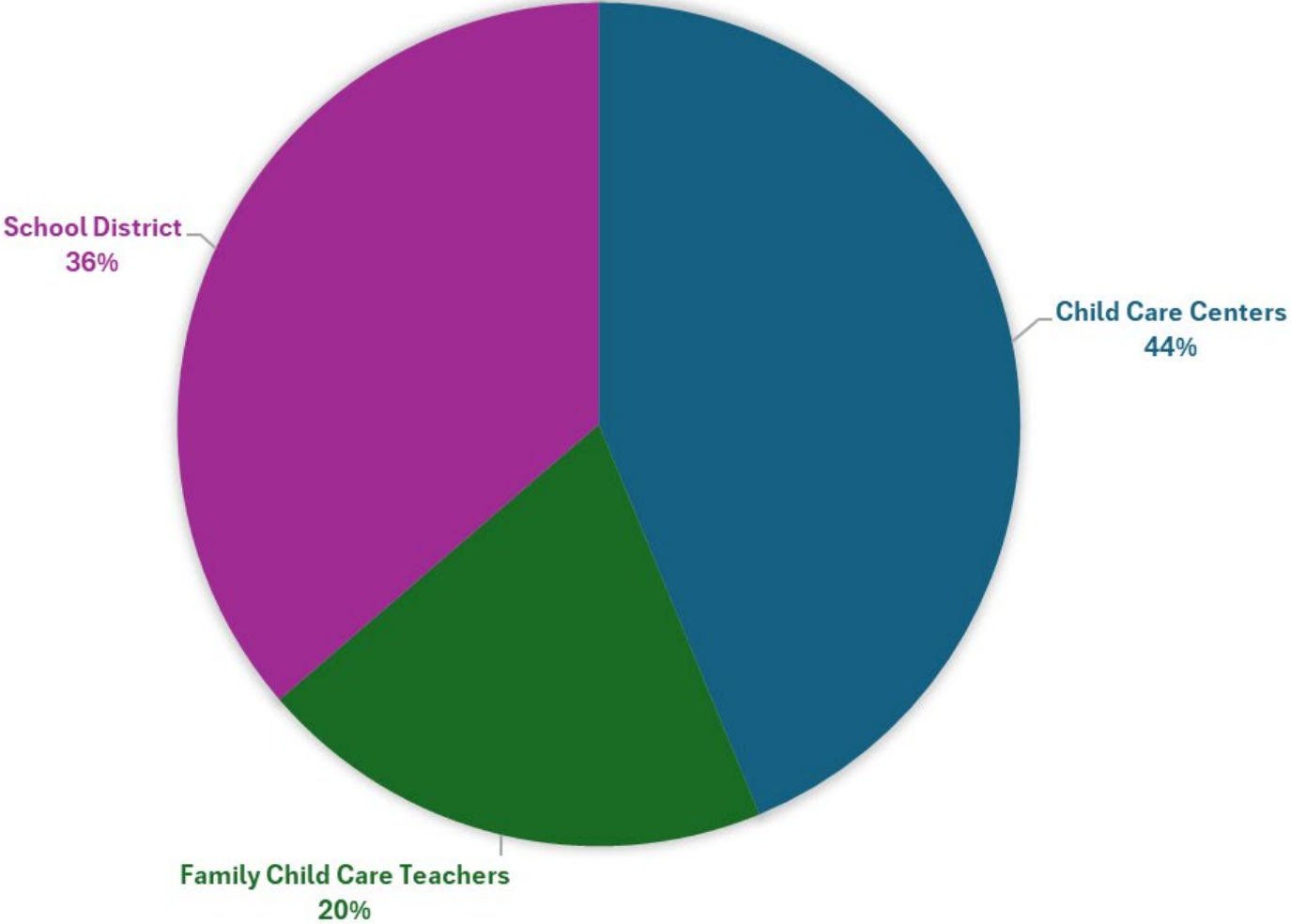
UPK Applications in El Paso County 2024-2025



EPC UPK Provider Update

- The total seat capacity in El Paso County has adjusted slightly to 6,173. One provider who had registered for year two has moved, bringing the total providers for year two to 200.
 - 36% of UPK providers in EPC are school-district based programs
 - 44% of UPK providers in EPC are center-based programs
 - 20% of UPK providers in EPC are family child care teachers
 - 71 UPK providers in EPC accept CCCAP as a form of payment

UPK PROVIDERS BY TYPE IN EL PASO COUNTY YEAR TWO



2024/2025 Provider Resources



COLORADO
Department of Early Childhood

Provider Resources

- [2024-25 Provider Handbook](#)
- [2024-25 Family Handbook](#)
- [CDEC Website- Provider Information](#)
- [Sign up for the Colorado Universal Preschool Newsletter!](#)
- [Contact us using this short form](#) or call 303-866-5223



COLORADO

Department of Early Childhood

2024 Enrollment Timeline and Pathways



COLORADO
Department of Early Childhood

2024 Enrollment Timeline

ESTIMATED ENROLLMENT TIMELINE FOR 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR



Program Pathways

- Every family could begin applying to Colorado Universal Preschool as of February 29th. The journey through the application is different depending on a family's unique circumstances.
- If a family has **priority criteria** they will be going through a different experience during the Pre-Registration, much like children with an IEPs go through a separate process.
- The families who have **priority criteria** are matched to their provider first. All other applications filled out during this window will be matched closer to April during the 1st DAA.



COLORADO

Department of Early Childhood

Pre-Registration



COLORADO
Department of Early Childhood



Pre-Registration

- From February 29th to March 28th, only those families that meet the continuity of care, employee, or sibling priority criteria outlined in Universal Preschool Colorado pre-registration enrollment guidelines will be matched to providers.
- If a child qualifies to be enrolled during pre-registration by the 3 criteria above, the provider can send a link to invite the family to initiate the application process. Providers can find the link in their portal.
- The link automatically places the program in the #1 selection. The family will still need to complete the application questions.
- The provider will see the children who are in placed status and can only decline if the child does not have priority status.





Pre-Registration

- If a family chooses to not use a pre-registration link and instead applies directly to the website, they will mark specific boxes according to their **priority criteria** and that will direct them to their continued provider.
- After the program selection, the family will be asked a series of Questions that will include:
 - Do you have continuity of care?
 - If so, which location?
 - Does the student have guardian employed at same location?
 - If so, which location?
 - Do you have a sibling already attending a Provider?
 - If so, which location?





Pre-Registration

- There will be a batch of applications with the **priority criteria** selected sent to providers periodically during the pre-registration period.
- Providers will be able to review the apps and If any family selected priority criteria on their application by mistake, a provider can decline the application.
- Any students who are not already enrolled at the same provider, siblings of existing students, or children of an employee at the provider must go through the DAA.
- Once a provider doesn't decline the application, the student remains placed into the correct seat.
- Families will receive their match on April 3 and will have a week to accept or decline the match.



DAA Rounds



COLORADO
Department of Early Childhood

DAA Rounds

- DAA Rounds for Year 2 will work very similar to Year 1.
- The first general matching round will take place in mid-April, after the Pre-Registration period is finished and families have had an opportunity to accept or decline their match from pre-registration.
- The second and final matching round will take place in July.
- Following the 2nd DAA Round, closer to the start of the school year, families who have yet to enroll will work directly with a provider of choice to enroll as space allows. Families will be able to submit an application and directly enroll with the provider.



COLORADO

Department of Early Childhood

A photograph of a classroom, likely a preschool or kindergarten, with a blue tint. The room features a large table with several chairs around it. In the background, there are whiteboards, educational posters, and a window with colorful decorations. A sign above the door reads "EXIT".

Students with IEPs Three- and Four-Year-Olds



COLORADO
Department of Early Childhood

Students with IEPs- Three- and Four-Year-Olds

Throughout the enrollment process and school year, children with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs), both three-year-olds and four-year-olds, will be supported through direct application, registration, and enrollment through their Administrative Unit (AU).

- AU's will continue to work with CDEC to place students with IEPs into a seat.
- Only an AU or CDEC may make a change to a placement or application for a child with an IEP.
- Similar to placement of students during the pre-registration period, students with IEPs will go straight into reserved IEP seats and will not go through the DAA.
- Students with IEPs will continue to be placed throughout the program year.



COLORADO

Department of Early Childhood

Income Verification



COLORADO
Department of Early Childhood

Income Verification

For Year 2, families will have to upload proof of income documents to qualify for additional funding

- This change is due to SMART Act reporting purposes
- Families that do not wish to qualify for additional funding or are not eligible for extra funding do not need to upload income documents.



COLORADO

Department of Early Childhood

Quality Standards



COLORADO
Department of Early Childhood

Quality Standards Overview

- **Universal Preschool Quality Standard 1: Instructional Practice**
 - Instructional Practice (IP) is considered to be everything preschool providers ‘do’ with children. A well-balanced pedagogical approach or curriculum supports the development of the whole child and incorporates assessment.
- **Universal Preschool Quality Standard 2: Healthy Development**
 - Healthy Development (HD) ensures preschool providers support the healthy bodies and minds of children. Addressing children’s development is a critical component of a whole child approach.
- **Universal Preschool Quality Standard 3: Family & Community Engagement**
 - Family and Community Engagement (FC) allows for affirmation of all aspects of children’s identity and acknowledges families as their child’s first caregiver and most important teacher.



Resource Bank

The development of a Colorado online Universal Preschool Resource Bank (UP-RB) is mandated in House Bill 22-1295 to support Colorado providers in meeting Universal Preschool Quality Standards.

The UP-RB will include national resources aligned with best practices and represent the best of what Colorado has built and accomplished in supporting the learning, development, and well-being of children aged 3-4 in early childhood settings.

It should be organized by the three Universal Preschool Quality Standards and include:

- Vetted and approved curricula, assessments, and screeners
- Definitions for best practice in specific activities such as screening, early childhood mental health, and family engagement grounded in the work of Colorado experts in these areas
- Aligned and approved training and professional development resources such as PDIS modules, coaching initiatives and guidance for approaching embedded professional learning across a variety of program settings and types



Timeline and Updates

The Quality Standards have gone through the Rules Advisory Council (RAC) and recommendations have been submitted to Dr. Lisa Roy, the executive director of the Colorado Department of Early Childhood.

Dr. Roy is considering the RAC recommendations and will make the final determination which will be announced at a future RAC meeting.

More information and a link to watch RAC meetings can be found on the CDEC website in the *For Partners* section.

Next CDEC Public Rulemaking Hearing on March 28, 2024, at 12:00 p.m.



COLORADO

Department of Early Childhood

JI UPK PAGE

JOINTINITIATIVES.ORG/UPK

- Roundtable recording and slide deck
- UPK newsletters
- Provider and family guides (latest version)
- Links to CDEC communications
- Links to RAC information, including versions of Quality Standards
- Most recent information on UPK
- Contact information

Bookmark this page and visit it often!

Bonus and Grant Opportunities

Bonus opportunities announced by CDEC in March 19 communication

Questions: contact Metrix IQ at coupkpayments@metrixiq.com

- One-time incentive opportunity in Spring of 2024 for UPK providers to **join the CCCAP program**. Open to any 2024-25 UPK provider who opens a new fiscal agreement with the county between 1/1/2024 and 6/15/2024 will be eligible to receive a \$2K bonus
- One-time bonus (between \$800 and \$1600) awarded to UPK providers who have maintained or increased their licensed capacity to serve **infants and toddlers** between 4/1/2022 and 4/1/2024
- On Friday, 3/15/24 Metrix IQ sent applications via email to providers who are eligible to apply for the **Spring Stabilization/New Provider Success Grants**. Providers must complete the application to be eligible.

Provider Agreement (Private Providers)

Page 9, section 5B(1) b thru e: Clarified that the provider will not invoice the state and that payments will be done similarly to the way they were done this year – based on enrollment in BridgeCare as downloaded by the state on a specific date (still to be published).

Page 11, section 6A: Procurement office states that you will be required to submit a quarterly report on how you expended your UPK funds. More information will be coming at a later date.

You are required to publish your tuition this year. Add into the Financial Programs, “Additional Payment Options” section of your profile.

Children with IEPs

- AUs submit list of children with IEPs to the state
- Families with children with IEPs submit an application in the UPK system; families should not be able to choose a location for their child
- State matches AU's list against UPK applications and sends the application to the AU for direct placement
- Still waiting for the process for getting children with IEPs who are not known to the AU to the correct AU (i.e. parent submits application stating that child has an IEP but the AU is not aware of the child)

Questions on this process to Angela Delin at angela.delin@state.co.us

Enrollment of Gen Ed 3-year-olds

- General Education 3-year-olds go directly to their school district for the 2024-25 year
- UPK system will not accept an application from a 3-year-old unless the child has an IEP
- School districts are free to enroll 3-year-olds in their programs using whatever criteria they determine
- Strongly suggest that the school district publish that criteria on their preschool page

Questions?



Foundations is the early childhood program of Joint Initiatives for Youth + Families.



Thank You!



Foundations is the early childhood program of Joint Initiatives for Youth + Families.

